

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 231200Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WHASDC 6482
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USMISSION NATO
USEC BURSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5651

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SP
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF UGT LEADER ON "UNITY OF ACTION"

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A JULY 22 MEETING WITH SECRETARY GENERAL NICOLAS REDONDA (THE UGT'S TOP LEADER) AND WITH MANUEL SIMON, UGT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CHIEF, REDONDO COMMENTED ON "UNITY OF ACTION" AND THE FORMATION OF THE ON-AGAIN OFF-AGAIN COORDINADORA OBRERA SINDICAL (COS). HE CONFIRMED THE ACCURACY OF THAT MORNING'S PRESS REPORT THAT JULY 21 MEETING OF SPANISH WORKERS COMMISSIONS (SWC), UGT, AND USO TO ANNOUNCE THE FORMATION OF COS (THE NATIONAL "UNITY OF ACTION" COORDINATION MECHANISM) HAD BEEN DELAYED "FOR TECHNICAL REASONS" UNTIL JULY 22. HE
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FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT COMMUNIST-DOMINATED SWC HAD TRIED TO

INSERT LANGUAGE INTO PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE MADE IT APPEAR THAT COS WAS ACUALLY THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A UNIFIED LABOR ORGANIZATION. THIS OF COURSE HAD BEEN UN-ACCEPTABLE TO UGT, AND AN ANXIOUS SWC HAD BACKED DOWN. COS ANNOUNCEMENT, AS FINALLY ISSUED, (AND REPORTED IN JULY 23 PRESS) SPOKE OF AN ACCORD TO OBTAIN "SYNDICAL RUPTURE" (I.E. COMPLETE BREAK WITH OLD LABOR STRUCTURE), AND NOTED THAT THE "OFFICIAL" INTRODUCTION OF COS WOULD TAKE PLACE FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.

2. REDONDO THEN RESTATED THE VIEW HE HAD EXPRESSED TO EMBASSY ON AN EARLIER OCCASION (MADRID 4519), NAMELY THAT UGT REGARDS COS AS AN ALLIANCE HAVING ONLY LIMITED "UNITY OF ACTION" GOALS AND CERTAINLY NOT AS AN ORGANISM LEADING TO AN EVENTUAL UNIFIED LABOR MOVEMENT. IN HIS VIEW, COS WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A MEANS TO PUBLICIZE AND HOPEFULLY SPEED PROCESS OF LABOR REFORM IN SPAIN. HE ALSO REPEATED THEME THAT PRESSURE FROM WORKER BASE FOR BAGUE GOAL OF "UNITY" OBLIGED UGT TO UNDERTAKE THIS "UNITY OF ACTION" EFFORT. WHEN ASKED WHETHER COS PLANNED TO SET UP AN OFFICE WITH ITS ATTENDANT BUREAUCRACY, HE REPLIED IN NEGATIVE, POINTING OUT COS WAS MEANT TO BE A "LOOSE" ALLIANCE. IN REPLY TO A FURTHER QUESTION RE ANTICIPATED SCOPE OF COS, REDONDO EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO LIMIT ANY ACTION BY THE NATIONAL COS TO JUST THE MADRID AREA. HE VISUALIZED COS COMMITTEES BEING ESTABLISHED NATIONWIDE IN VARIOUS PROVINCES AND FACTORIES. HE SAID THAT THE UGT REJECTED PERSISTENT SWC ATTEMPTS TO SELL THE IDEA OF A BROAD "CONSTITUENT CONGRESS" OF ALL ILLEGAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS DESIGNED TO PRODUCE A UNIFIED LABOR ORGANIZATION-- A CONGRESS THAT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE MANIPULATED, IF NOT CONTROLLED, BY PCE ELEMENTS.

3. RETURNING TO THE COS FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENT SCHEDULED FOR THAT AFTERNOON, REDONDO THOUGHT THAT THE TIME WAS PERHAPS NOT RIPE FOR THE ACTUAL "FORMAL" OR "OFFICIAL" SIGNING. HE SPECULATED THAT IN VIEW OF THE EXPECTED LABOR UNREST THIS FALL, THEY MIGHT GET MORE MILEGAE OUT OF THE EVENT IF THE COS AGREEMENT WERE ACTUALLY SIGNED IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. IT WAS SOMEWHAT CURIOUS TO NOTE THAT NEITHER OF THE TWO UGT LEADERS MADE MORE THAN PASSING REFERENCE TO THE NEW SUAREZ GOVT AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ITS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PROGRAM. AS A MATTER OF FACT, REDONDO BARELY RECALLED THAT HIS UNION, THE SWC, AND THE USO HAD ISSUED A CRITICAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON JULY 13 DEPLORING THE FAILURE OF THE NEW GOVT'S REFORMIST LINE (ESPECIALLY IN TRADE UNION AFFAIRS) AND THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC SITUATION (MADRID 5430. STABLER

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